



## Connecticut Inner City 10 Launched

On September 26, Governor John G. Rowland officially launched one of the key programs recommended by business and civic leaders who participated in Connecticut's Inner City Business Strategy Initiative: The *Connecticut Inner City 10* awards program.

The program will recognize the 10 fastest growing businesses in Connecticut's inner cities. As it celebrates the accomplishments of inner city businesspeople, the program will also help dispel misperceptions of the inner city, call attention to the inner city's competitive advantages as a business location and provide role models for future inner city entrepreneurs.

The *Connecticut Inner City 10* awards program builds on the national *Inner City 100* contest sponsored annually by Harvard Business School Professor Michael Porter's nonprofit Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC) and *Inc. Magazine*. Winners of the *Connecticut Inner City 10* program will automatically be entered in the national program.

Connecticut is the first state to participate in the program on a statewide basis. Our participation spotlights Connecticut as a national leader in using innovative, market-based approaches to creating economic opportunity in the inner cities.

The deadline for entries is Friday, October 20. Nomination and application forms for the *Connecticut Inner City 10* are online at [www.decd.org](http://www.decd.org) or may be obtained by calling 860-270-8062.



## Battelle Chosen by OWC for Workforce Development Plans

Battelle Memorial Institute has been selected to work with Connecticut organizations to develop two strategic plans: one for building Connecticut's information technology workforce and another to improve Connecticut's higher education response to workforce needs.

Battelle is recognized worldwide for its work in technology development, management and commercialization; and the development of industry/government/academic partnerships. Its Technology Partnership Practice focuses on designing, implementing and assessing technology programs for economic development.

Battelle will work with Connecticut's Office for Workforce Competitiveness (OWC), the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission (CETC) and the Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC) to develop the two strategic plans. The IT workforce strategic plan is mandated by the General Assembly.

One will recommend steps for ensuring that Connecticut has the information technology workforce necessary to fill the IT positions of the future. The other will recommend how best to utilize the resources of Connecticut's higher education community to prepare Connecticut's workforce for the new economy. The IT and higher education plans will be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly on December 15, 2000, and March 15, 2001, respectively.

By creating the technology experts of tomorrow, these strategies will ensure that Connecticut companies have the intellectual resources they need to compete in an economy driven by knowledge and technological innovation.

## On the Web

For more information on Connecticut's Competitiveness Strategy, visit [www.decd.org](http://www.decd.org) or [www.cerc.com](http://www.cerc.com) and click on the Industry Clusters icon.

## Transportation Summit Addresses Economic Impact

Business leaders, legislators and other key stakeholders - including many Governor's Council members - gathered in East Hartford on September 28 for *Connecticut Transportation Summit 2000: From Gridlock to Growth*. The purpose of the event was to open discussion on how the state can best address transportation problems that threaten Connecticut's continued economic expansion.

Governor's Council members have long recognized that Connecticut's transportation deficiencies pose a potential obstacle to economic growth. Members have examined Bradley Airport, in particular, and suggested steps aimed at making it a truly world-class transportation hub.

With this summit, a bipartisan event organized by House Speaker Moira Lyons and Governor Rowland, the dialog on transportation in Connecticut has broadened. Participants in three working groups that presented their findings to the summit looked at transportation issues statewide. They considered all of Connecticut's existing and potential transportation assets - including airports, highways, bus routes, trains and ports - and recommended possible solutions. Ideas presented included:

- ♦ The establishment of a governing body to coordinate all transportation issues;
- ♦ Incentives for employers to offer flextime, telecommuting, carpools and "guaranteed ride home" programs;
- ♦ The creation of a statewide intermodal transportation system;
- ♦ Improved and expanded train and bus service;
- ♦ Metering or closing of highway entrance ramps;
- ♦ Greater use of Intelligent Traffic Systems; and
- ♦ Greater use of waterways and rail to transport freight to - and through - Connecticut.

Speaking at the summit, Governor Rowland pledged to work with the governors of New York and the other New England states to "make transportation a number-one regional issue." He added that the work begun at the summit will go forward and result in a legislative proposal that will address both short- and long-term transportation needs.

"There's never been a problem in the state of Connecticut that we haven't been able to solve," Rowland said.

## Contact

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